Restrictions on Imports

5274. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed certain restrictions on imports during the current year affecting the imports by exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The imports are regulated by the Import and Export Policy (1990-93). No additional restrictions have been imposed on imports by the Government. However, in view of the present Balance of Payment problem, RBI has introduced certain curbs which will be reviewed when the situation improves.

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee on Textile Exports

5275. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the impact of the devaluation of rupee on the entire textile exports in quota, non-quota, rupee trade and the general currency area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): While it is expected that exports which are contracted in hard currencies will be benefitted by devaluation, it is too early to accurately assess the impact of the exchange rate adjustments of Rupee on textile exports.

Sale of REP Licences by Exporters

5276. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that REP licences available with the exporters are sold at a premium to importers;

(b) whether REP licences purchased by importers help them to import any item of their choice and to sell them in Indian markets at a huge profits; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively prevent this practice by exporters and importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). In terms of Imports & Exports Policy all REP licences, excepting those issued against the export of Gem & Jewellery product group, are valid for the import of limited permissible items (App.3), non-sensitive canalised items (App.5-A) and OGL items of raw materials, components and consumables etc. as are covered by lists 8 Part-I and 10 of Appendix 6 of Policy. These licences as well as the goods imported against them are freely transferable. As such, premium on transfer of such licences, if any, shall be governed by the demand and supply mechanism.

Quality Inspection of Big Export Houses

5277. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big business houses, trading houses and export houses are proposed to be exempted from quality inspection certificates from the Export Inspection Agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how the quality inspection of the above export houses will be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SAL-